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USACE provides support to Balkan operations

By Torrie McAllister
Europe District Public Affairs

After three days of drenching rain in Tirana, Albania, Col. Bill McCoy, Commander of the 130th Engineer Brigade, stood knee-deep in a sea of mud directing base camp and Apache Support Area preparations for V Corps. Combat heavy engineers were among the first on the scene to prepare for deployment of more than 2,000 troops, two squadrons of AH-64 Apache attack helicopters, and UH-60 Blackhawk utility helicopters for transport and medical evacuation.

Calling Europe District via satellite, McCoy requested a survey team with technical expertise for site evaluations and drainage plans to advise him on how to stabilize the quagmire. The next day, two Europe District civilians, Environmental Engineer

Continued on Page 6



Soil stabilization, base camp site selection, and setup were the first missions of military and civilian engineers in Tirana, Albania.

(Photo by Lt. Mike Dickson, Combat Heavy Engineer)

Inside

Renovations complete on NATO Health Facility in
Brussels.....Page 3

Europe District changes to new electronic mail
system.....Page 8



Europe District prepares for TeleEngineering

Jeff Powell, from the Corps' Waterways Experiment Station, is pictured setting up part of the TeleEngineering satellite system at Europe District Headquarters in Wiesbaden. TeleEngineering capabilities are being established within Europe District by a team led by Len Husky from the Research and Development Center in Vicksburg. Like telemedicine, which lets doctors consult on surgeries conducted half a world away, this sophisticated satellite communications system will let engineers collecting data in the Balkans hold real-time video consultations with technical experts anywhere in the Corps. (Photo by Erich Schuette, Europe District)

Engineering in Europe

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Renovations complete on NATO Health Facility in Brussels



Story and Photos by
Torrie McAllister
Europe District Public Affairs

The new North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Health Facility in Brussels opened in March, giving Americans who serve their country at NATO Headquarters a first-class facility for medical and dental care.

The building looks like new but is actually a thoroughly modern make-over of the old clinic plus an additional wing.

“The change is dramatic,” said Capt. James Tomassetti, officer in charge of the dental clinic. “When we closed the old clinic the roof leaked, the sewer backed up, and

the dental patients lacked privacy. The dental chairs were the old military open bay concept — four chairs side by side. Our supplies were outside in a trailer.”

“Our new dental wing represents the true spirit of medical care in Europe,” he said. “Now there are two private dental suites, and one with two chairs divided by cabinets. We also have separate waiting areas for the medical and dental clinics. We have improved both the efficiency and access of care. I’ve been to a lot of clinics in Europe and I firmly believe this is the nicest.”

The \$1.3 million modernization brings the NATO Health Facility up to the European Regional Medical Command’s

Continued on Page 4

Capt. James Tomassetti, Officer in Charge of the Dental Clinic, enjoys the dramatic improvement in the dental facilities at the new NATO Health Facility in Brussels. The clinic opened in March, giving Americans who serve their country at NATO Headquarters a first-class facility for medical and dental care.

Dignitaries cutting the ribbon to the new NATO Health Facility included (from left to right), Capt. James Tomassetti, NATO Clinic Commander Col. Brian Johnson, European Regional Dental Commander Col. Fretwell, Assistant Secretary General of NATO Robbin Beard, Europe District Commander Col. Mike Barry, Brig. Gen. Kussman, and a representative from the contracting company IBO, Belgium.



Health Facility

From Page 3

exacting standards for quality throughout the customer care environment. From the art on the walls, to the waiting areas for medical and dental patients, it is a bright, clean environment where doctors have their own patient care areas with ample room for medical equipment and supplies. It has 28 percent more floor space, seven patient exam suites, and a separate staff support section.

"The old clinic was 28 years old. When a building is falling apart, patients wonder about the quality of care they are getting even if they are getting the best care in the world," said Col. Brian Johnson, NATO Clinic Commander.

"We knew we had to completely modernize to stay open. Thanks in large part to the former Assistant Secretary General of NATO, Robbin Beard, we were able to get minor military construction funds from Congress. Now we have a health facility the entire community can be proud of."

Col. Johnson, who worked with engineers to bring the medical facility from concept design to ribbon cutting in just 15 months, offered this advice to anyone about

to become involved in construction.

"Get involved from the very beginning. It's nice to have engineers designing and building for you but they aren't health care providers. You need to work with them and explain, 'It doesn't make sense to put the chair here because I work this way.' During the design phase we worked late at night with the Corps of Engineers and the European Regional Medical Command to make sure everything would be in the right place. Everyone said we would never complete construction in Belgium in a year, but by working together we held to the schedule to the day."

Other key players on the project include Europe District Project Manager Nuri Ergenekon, Europe District Project Engineer Sam Parker, European Regional Medical Command Engineer Maj. Guy Kiyokawa, Lt. Col. Thom Kurmel from the Office of the Surgeon General Health Facility Planning Agency, and Lt. Col. Dave Farace from the 80th Area Support Group Directorate of Public Works.

Design on the project was completed by Tobey & Davis from Virginia, LMC from Belgium, and CDE from Germany.

Construction on the project was completed by the International Building Organization of Belgium.

NATO Health Facility Head Nurse Emelda Rose Holder enjoys the newly modernized NATO Health Facility. "The exam suites are better organized, and visiting doctors have their own area," she said.



"Our new dental wing represents the true spirit of medical care in Europe. Now there are two private dental suites, and one with two chairs divided by cabinets. We also have separate waiting areas for the medical and dental clinics. We have improved both the efficiency and access of care. I've been to a lot of clinics in Europe and I firmly believe this is the nicest."

—Capt. James Tomassetti, Officer in Charge of the dental clinic.



NATO Health Clinic Pharmacist Muhammad Ahmad, and Pharmacy Assistant Tahir Ahmad, enjoy working in the newly renovated pharmacy.

A new wing architecturally compliments the modernized main building of the NATO Health Facility.



Balkans

From Page 1

and Force Protection Specialist Pat Brady, and Surveyor John Miller, were on the ground. Two geotechnical experts, Dr. Al Bush, from the Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC), and Dan Glock from Baltimore District, were in route. Another environmental engineer, Rusty Mizelle from Europe District, had already deployed with the early entry combat engineers to help U.S. Army, Europe (USAREUR) prepare environmental baseline studies.

They will soon be reinforced by a TeleEngineering capability being established within Europe District by Len Husky from ERDC. Like telemedicine, which lets doctors consult on surgeries conducted half a world away, this sophisticated satellite communications system will let engineers collecting data in the Balkans hold real-time video consultations with technical experts anywhere in the Corps.

Rapid response to military contingencies is a forte of the engineer regiment — the combined muscle and talent of military engineers, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers civilians who volunteer to deploy on a

moments notice wherever national security strategy requires.

The Corps, in partnership with USAREUR, is planning real estate, construction, and engineering support for NATO operations and deployment of Task Force Hawk in Albania. V Corps is orchestrating engineer support to the initial build up of the task force. USAREUR Deputy Chief of Staff Engineer Col. (P) Steve Hawkins is synchronizing the Army engineer support plan for the Balkans operation.

As it has in Bosnia, Croatia, and Hungary, USAREUR is using the sustainment services contract awarded by the Corps' Transatlantic Programs Center (TAC) to support soldiers being deployed for Task Force Hawk in Albania.

In early April, TAC tasked the contractor, Brown & Root Services, to begin planning for a temporary camp. Brown & Root Services is now on tap to provide temporary housing (tent complexes), food services, parking and road work, water, power generation, transportation services, mail delivery, and waste, trash, and disease vector control.

The top priorities are force protection and providing basic living conditions, i.e., building wooden platforms to get the tents out of the mud, and building mess halls,



The Corps of Engineers is supporting V Corps in orchestrating engineer support to the initial build up of the task force in Albania. USAREUR Deputy Chief of Staff Engineer Col. (P) Steve Hawkins is synchronizing the Army engineer support plan for the Balkans operation.

(Photo by Lt. Mike Dickson, Combat Heavy Engineer)



Engineer Carmine Leone from North Atlantic Division, Europe District Environmental Engineer and Force Protection Specialist Pat Brady, and Europe District Surveyor John Miller prepare surveying equipment. (Photo by Lt. Mike Dickson, Combat Heavy Engineer)

latrines, and showers.

The Chief of Engineers has designated Maj. Gen. Jerry Sinn, commander of North Atlantic Division, and NAD's Europe District, as the Corps' lead element to coordinate USACE support to Balkan operations.

In a dynamic operation, where communications and response time are everything, the Corps is collocating liaison officers with European Command (EUCOM), USAREUR engineers and logisticians, and U.S. Air Force, Europe civil engineers.

In Albania, Dwight Dukes is Europe District's team leader and contracting officer representative for the engineering aspects of Brown & Root's contract, together with the Defense Logistics Agency's Defense Contract Management District-International.

At EUCOM Headquarters in Stuttgart, Rich Dickson from Europe District is the Corps' liaison with the J-4 Engineer staff.

Europe District's Planning Officer, Scott Lowdermilk, has collocated with the USAREUR Deputy Chief of Staff Engineer's Military Engineering Topographic Branch to coordinate USACE activities and ensure

synergy of effort.

In USAREUR's Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics office, Bill Mills, TAC's Chief of Plans and Operations, is working along with logisticians to ensure the sustainment contract keeps pace with the fluidity of operations.

Carmine Leone is the first of several NAD engineers to deploy to Europe District's Operations and Readiness Center to synchronize USACE support.

"This is just the first wave of Corps talent," said John Daneker, Europe District's Operations Officer, who is organizing the deployment of all USACE personnel into Europe and the Balkans. "The Corps' CREST team is on standby to deploy in support of USAREUR real estate acquisition. We have volunteers from across the Corps identified and ready to support Balkan operations."

CREST is the Contingency Real Estate Support Team, a group of Corps real estate specialists prepared to deploy quickly to provide real estate support for deploying units.

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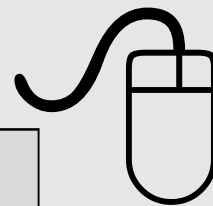
— John Daneker, Europe District Operations Officer

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DOD OFFICIAL INTRATHEATER MAIL

Official Business

Europe District changes to new electronic mail system



Europe District recently changed to the Microsoft Outlook 97 electronic mail system. If you are using a previous address with “tac01” in the title, (i.e., “john.doe@tac01.usace.army.mil”), it is no longer valid. To correct your address, simply remove the reference to “tac01” (i.e., “john.s.doe@usace.army.mil”).

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